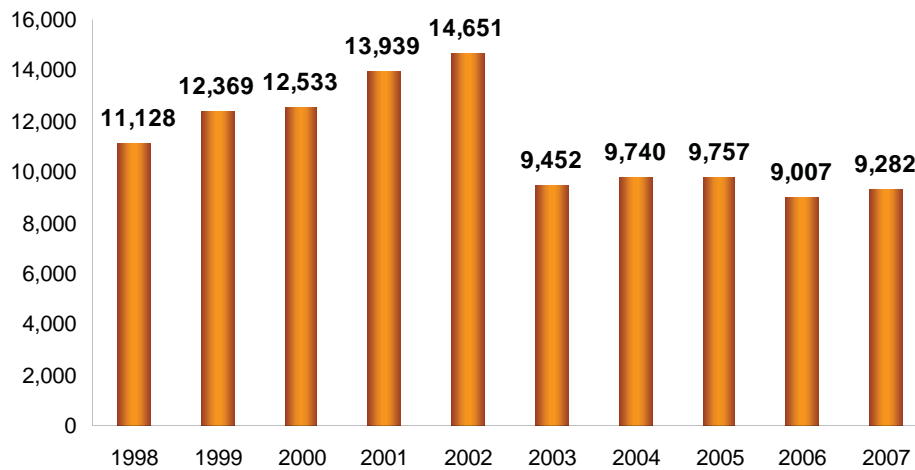




GED attainment

Status: Making progress

Number of GEDs awarded by Kentucky Adult Education



Source: GED Testing Service and Kentucky Adult Education

Highlights

- Nearly 112,000 adults have earned a GED over the last decade.
- GED graduates increased 3% over last year, reversing an 8% drop in 2006.
- From 1998 to 2002, GEDs increased 32% due to an extensive statewide media campaign encouraging adults to complete the tests before the national exam changed.
- GED awards in Kentucky and the nation declined sharply in 2003, in part due to perceptions about the difficulty of the new test.
- A new framework for adult education was implemented in 2006-07 that emphasizes quality student outcomes over enrollment, provides more flexibility in the delivery of instructional services, and includes efforts to increase GED scores.

About this measure

The General Educational Development (GED) exam offers individuals who have not completed high school a chance to obtain an equivalent credential and pursue postsecondary education. The GED tests reflect high school curriculum standards developed at the national and jurisdictional levels. The GED includes five tests—Reading, Writing, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics.

Nearly 20% of Kentucky's working-age, adult population has not finished high school, a barrier to the state's ability to keep pace with the global economy. This indicator monitors a critical objective of Kentucky Adult Education, a unit of the Council, and focuses attention on the need to re-engage working-age adults into the state's educational pipeline.